

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 3062.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of Senate bill (S. 3062) to modify the date on which the Mayor of the District of Columbia submits a performance accountability plan to Congress, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, but I do not plan to object. I take this time to engage the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) in a colloquy for a brief explanation of his unanimous consent request.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3062, the District of Columbia Performance Accountability Plan Amendments Act of 2000. This bill contains technical amendments to the District of Columbia's performance plan requirements, which will allow the city to reform its management system more effectively.

Mr. Speaker, just as the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 redesigned the management practices and accountability at Federal agencies, the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995 requires that the city submit performance accountability plans to Congress preceding each fiscal year.

These plans set objective and measurable goals for the District's agencies and the departments, and establish a system of accountability in the city's daily operations.

Mr. Speaker, it also requires that after each fiscal year, the city must submit to Congress a performance accountability report evaluating its ability to meet the performance goals of the prior fiscal year.

This act has provided the city with the means to establish a system of performance budgeting. However, the Mayor of the District of Columbia requested that Congress make some minor changes to the law to improve

the efficiency of this process. Therefore, S. 3062 changes the submission deadline for the annual performance accountability plan from March 1 of each year to be concurrent with the submission of the District's budget to Congress.

This change will tie the District of Columbia's budget to its performance accountability measures. This bill also streamlines the performance goal submission requirements set out in the act so that there is one set of measurable and ambitious goals.

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This is critical to ensuring that the managers of the District of Columbia government have a clear understanding of the goals which they are expected to meet.

Furthermore, this bill will impose no additional regulatory burdens on the District, and will eventually reduce the paperwork burden by creating a single integrated document as a result of the performance budgeting process.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this legislation to help the District of Columbia move closer to an effective budgeting process.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, S. 3062 was introduced on September 18, 2000, by Senators VOINOVICH and DURBIN. Together, these two Senators worked with the Mayor's Office to draft the technical changes to the performance plan submission requirements, and bipartisan support appears to exist in both houses for this legislation.

The legislative changes include, one, changing the deadline for submission from March 1 of each year to be concurrent with the submission of the D.C. budget to Congress each year; and two, getting rid of the multiple performance goals for each measure in exchange for one ambitious goal per performance measure.

With this, Mr. Speaker, I do urge the House to adopt this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 3062

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.

Section 456 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (section 47-231 et seq. of the District of Columbia Code) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "Not later than March 1 of each year (beginning with 1998)" and inserting "Concurrent with the submission of the District of Columbia budget to Congress each year (beginning with 2001)"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking "that describe an acceptable level of performance

by the government and a superior level of performance by the government"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "1999" and inserting "2001"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking "for an acceptable level of performance by the government and a superior level of performance by the government".

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU RECORDS PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5157) to amend title 44, United States Code, to ensure preservation of the records of the Freedmen's Bureau, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not by any means plan to object, but I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) for a brief explanation of the bill.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5157, the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000, represents a bipartisan effort to safeguard important links to the past. These records document how the 38th Congress responded to the enormous social and economic upheaval in the aftermath of the Civil War.

The Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which I chair, held a hearing on this bill on October 18, 2000. The subcommittee heard testimony from a number of very distinguished scholars and witnesses, including the President of Howard University, H. Patrick Swygert.

President Swygert testified about the importance of safeguarding these uniquely valuable records, which are deteriorating due to the passage of time.

From 1865 to 1872, the Freedmen's Bureau helped better the lives of former slaves and others who had been impoverished by the war. These Bureau records are in many instances the only link many Americans have with their past and our past, especially those who are descended from former slaves.

H.R. 5157 would require the Archivist of the United States to preserve these irreplaceable documents. The bill would also require the Archivist of the United States to develop partnerships with educational institutions such as Howard University and others to index the records so they may be more readily accessible to anyone who is interested in this important period of the Nation's history.